



OUR BODIES OURSELVES

A Member Agency
of Community Works

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Judy Norsigian

May 17, 2007

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
United States House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

202.225.2202 fax

Dear Congressman Becerra:

As an organization that cares very much about health care and research for medical cures that would be accessible to all members of the public, we oppose the patenting of human genes. Despite assertions to the contrary, the patenting of human genes impedes rather than promotes research and leads to inappropriate increases in health care costs.

The practice of granting patents on human genetic material fails to substantially serve the United States' Constitutional goal of "promoting the progress of Science." Contrary to the system's aim of encouraging innovation, the privatization and exclusive control of human genes is not only inhibiting biomedical research, it is also interfering with patient care, and runs counter to traditions in patent law serving to protect the public health and welfare. For these reasons, we support the "Genomic Research and Accessibility Act" (HR 977) and urge others to support it as well.

Sincerely,

Judy Norsigian
Executive Director, Our Bodies Ourselves